

In Council Annapolis 22. Nov. 1780

Gentlemen.

N. 12.

In consequence of the earnest Requisition of Congress to the State, to furnish immediately five hundred Head of neat Cattle for the Army, we directed our Commissaries to purchase what Cattle could be procured and forward them to the Head of Elk, one of the Posts appointed by the Commander in Chief for depositing some other of the Articles required by the Resolutions of the 25th Feb. last, and the most convenient in this State for Delivery to the Continental Officer. We are informed by Col. Hollingsworth, that Mr. Yeates and Mr. Hamfay the only Continental Officers at the Head of Elk, have refused to receive and forward the Cattle to the Army, alledging it to be no Part of the Business of their respective Departments, and that he has, for Want of Money, been obliged to sell some of them to buy Provision to support and keep the Post alive. We could not expect, after Cattle were procured for the immediate Subsistence of the Army, and driven to the Verge of the State to be delivered to the Officer of Congress, that we should have had any further Difficulties to encounter. It is out of our Power to send them on, being neither provided with Persons nor Money to defray the Expence that must be incurred on that Account.

It is unnecessary to suggest the Evils to you, which must inevitably arise, unless Continental Officers are stationed at the Places assigned or pointed out by the Commander in Chief for receiving and forwarding the specific Articles of Supplies to be furnished by the State, or some facile and ready Mode to convey them to Camp, is adopted. The Sufferings of the Army upon that and every Occasion, induced us to exert ourselves to the utmost to comply with the Demands on us for their Relief and it excites no small Uneasiness to find our Designs frustrated and the Army thereby deprived of the Subsistence provided for them, by the Neglect of those whose peculiar Province it is to convey Supplies to the Camp.

The Delegates in Congress.

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Sir

We were honored with your Address of the 17th Inst. and think it very reasonable and just that the Subjects of the French King, residing in this State should enjoy similar Privileges & Exemptions from Taxation and Military Duty to those with which the Americans in France are favored, and would most cheerfully confer them if the Powers with which we are constitutionally vested, were competent to the Purpose, but as they are not, we have submitted the Subject to the Consideration of the General Assembly, the Result of whose Deliberation thereon, shall be communicated to you, as soon as it is made known to us. We have wrote to Mr. Laughlin, the Secretary of the

Assembly